

REMARKS

This application is amended in a manner to place it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

Claims 1-3, 5, 6 and 8 are amended. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in the Embodiments of Table 2 in the present specification.

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 remain pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 5, 9 and 10. Claim 5 is amended to incorporate the features previously recited in claim 1 to place it condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by WEISSEL US 4,049,584 (WEISSEL). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

WEISSEL is offered for teaching catalysts containing ruthenium and metal hydroxides.

However, WEISSEL fails to disclose or suggest a catalyst comprising at least one of palladium, platinum, rhodium, and silver with a metal carbonate, basic metal carbonate or mixtures thereof, as recited in independent claim 1. Moreover, WEISSEL fails to disclose or suggest a catalyst comprising at least one of palladium, platinum, and rhodium with a metal hydroxide, metal carbonate, basic metal carbonate or mixtures as recited in independent claim 6.

Therefore, WEISSEL cannot anticipate claims 1-3, 6-8, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendment to the claims and the foregoing remarks, the application is in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action. Allowance and passage to issue on that basis are therefore respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee of \$210 for the extra independent claim added herewith to our credit card.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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